

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Claims 1, 7 and 21 are amended.
Claims 23-25 are cancelled.

Per Examiner's Amendment

Claims 1, 7 and 21 are amended.
Claims 6, 15 and 16 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-5, 7-14 and 17-22 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

I. Applicant's arguments (see Remarks pages 15-16 filed 3/17/2009) with respect to claims 1, 7 and 21 have been fully considered. The rejections of the pending claims have been withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

II. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

III. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Michael O'Neill on July 2, 2009. Please make the following changes to claims 1, 7 and 21:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer network scanning system for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network, said system comprising:

at least one computer terminal adapted to invoke a scan order entry form, from an order entry server, for inputting a scanner node, a scan setting for causing the inputted scanner node to scan an image, and a destination for sending the scanned image,

wherein said one computer terminal is further adapted to accept input of the scanner node, the scan setting, and the destination via the invoked scan order entry form by a user;

at least one order entry server computer configured to reconcile the inputted scan setting with a capability profile of the inputted scanner node to perform scanning, and to create and distribute a scan order in accordance with the reconciliation result, each order entry server computer being coupled to said at least one computer terminal through the computer network; and

at least one scanner node, each scanner node being coupled to said at least one computer terminal and each order entry server computer through the computer network, each scanner node being configured to select a scan order from a plurality of scan orders received from at least one of the order entry servers through the computer network by a user operation at the scanner node to select a scan order, and each scanner node being configured to generate a scanned image based on the selected scan order and to send the scanned image to the destination included in the selected scan order,

wherein each scanner node comprises:

a user interface module;

a script interpreter module for parsing the scan order in order to obtain scanner settings and parameters contained therein, the script interpreter module coupled to the user interface module;

a scan order queue updater and sorter module coupled to the user interface module and to the script interpreter module, the scan order queue updater and sorter module configured to update and sort a queue of a scanner node;

a scanner driver module adapted to receive an output of the script interpreter module and to set settings and parameters of the scanner node based on the output;

a scanner module coupled to the scanner driver module and adapted to receive scanner settings and parameters from the scanner driver module and configured to produce a scanned image; and

an email server module coupled to the computer network, to the script interpreter module, and to the scanner module, the email server module configured to receive the scan order sent over the computer network, to send an electronic mail message containing the scanned image to any recipients indicated in the scan order, and to send an electronic mail message without the scanned image to any parties indicated in the scan order notifying such parties of the completion of the scan order.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer network scanning method for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one scanner node, said method comprising:

creating the scan order in accordance with an operation by a user at a local computer terminal, wherein through operation of the user the local computer terminal inputs a scanner node and a scan setting for causing the inputted scanner node to scan an image, and a destination for sending information regarding the scanned image, and wherein the local computer causes an order entry server to reconcile the inputted scan setting with a capability profile of the inputted scanner node to perform scanning, and wherein the scan order is created in accordance with the reconciliation result, and wherein the scan order includes an identification of the inputted scan setting and the destination of at least one individual selected from a group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned image, and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order;

submitting the created scan order to at least one scanner node for processing through the computer network;

displaying the identification of the inputted scan setting included in the scan order and processing the scan order at the scanner node by a user operation at the scanner node to select a scan order; ~~and~~

wherein processing of the scan order at the scanner node involves:

selecting one of the scan orders in the queue of the scanner node;

parsing the selected scan order using a script interpreter module associated with the scanner node;

sending commands to a scanner driver module associated with the scanner node based upon scanner settings and parameters obtained from the parsed scan order;

updating the scanner node which processes the scan order on the computer network by setting the scanner node to desired settings and parameters as specified in the scan order;

placing the item to be scanned in the scanner node;

initiating scanning to obtain the scanned item as specified in the scan order at the scanner node;

sending a scanned image of the item as specified in the scan order using an email server module associated with the scanner node; and

sending notification using the email server module associated with the scanner node of completion of the scan order to any parties indicated in the scan order.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer network scanning method for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one scanner node, said method comprising:

creating the scan order in accordance with an operation by a user at a local computer terminal, wherein through operation of the user the local computer terminal inputs a scanner node and a scan setting for causing the inputted scanner node to scan an image, and a destination for sending information regarding the scanned image, and wherein the local computer terminal causes an order entry server to reconcile the inputted scan setting with a capability profile of the inputted scanner node to perform scanning in accordance with the inputted scan setting, and wherein the scan order is created in accordance with the reconciliation result, and wherein the scan order includes an identification of the inputted scan setting and the destination of at least one individual selected from a group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned image, and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order;

storing the created scan order in a central database;

retrieving the scan order for a scanner node through the computer network;

displaying the identification of the inputted scan setting included in the retrieved scan order and processing the retrieved scan order at the scanner node designated in the inputted scan setting by a user operation at the scanner node to select a scan order; **and**

wherein processing of the retrieved scan order at the scanner node involves:

selecting one of the scan orders in the queue of the scanner node;

parsing the selected scan order using a script interpreter module associated with the scanner node;

sending commands to a scanner driver module associated with the scanner node based upon scanner settings and parameters obtained from the parsed scan order;

updating the scanner node which processes the scan order on the computer network by setting the scanner node to desired settings and parameters as specified in the scan order;

placing the item to be scanned in the scanner node;

initiating scanning to obtain the scanned item as specified in the scan order at the scanner node;

sending a scanned image of the item as specified in the scan order using an email server module associated with the scanner node;

sending notification using the email server module associated with the scanner node of completion of the scan order to any parties indicated in the scan order; and updating the central database.

Cancel: Claims 6, 15 and 16.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

IV. The prior art or record fails to teach neither singly nor in combination, the claimed limitations of: “fulfilling a scan order over a computer network, said system comprising: at least one computer terminal adapted to invoke a scan order entry form, from an order entry server, for inputting a scanner node, a scan setting for causing the inputted scanner node to scan an image, and a destination for sending the scanned image, wherein said one computer terminal is further adapted to accept input of the scanner node, the scan setting, and the destination via the invoked scan order entry form by a user; at least one order entry server computer configured to reconcile the inputted scan setting with a capability profile of the inputted scanner node to perform scanning, and to create and distribute a scan order in accordance with the reconciliation result, each order entry server computer being coupled to said at least one computer terminal through the computer network; and at least one scanner node, each scanner node being coupled to said at least one computer terminal and each order entry server computer through the computer network, each scanner node being configured to select a scan order from a plurality of scan orders received from at least one of the order entry servers through the computer network by a user operation at the scanner node to select a scan order, and each scanner node being configured to generate a scanned image based on the selected scan order and to send the scanned image to the destination included in the selected scan order, wherein each scanner node comprises: a user interface module; a script interpreter module for parsing the scan order in order to obtain scanner settings and parameters contained therein, the script interpreter module coupled to the user interface module; a scan order queue updater and sorter module coupled to the user interface module and to the script interpreter module, the scan order queue updater and sorter

module configured to update and sort a queue of a scanner node; a scanner driver module adapted to receive an output of the script interpreter module and to set settings and parameters of the scanner node based on the output; a scanner module coupled to the scanner driver module and adapted to receive scanner settings and parameters from the scanner driver module and configured to produce a scanned image; and an email server module coupled to the computer network, to the script interpreter module, and to the scanner module, the email server module configured to receive the scan order sent over the computer network, to send an electronic mail message containing the scanned image to any recipients indicated in the scan order, and to send an electronic mail message without the scanned image to any parties indicated in the scan order notifying such parties of the completion of the scan order” as stated in independent Claim 1.

Furthermore, the prior art or record fails to teach neither singly nor in combination, the claimed limitations of: “creating the scan order in accordance with an operation by a user at a local computer terminal, wherein through operation of the user the local computer terminal inputs a scanner node and a scan setting for causing the inputted scanner node to scan an image, and a destination for sending information regarding the scanned image, and wherein the local computer causes an order entry server to reconcile the inputted scan setting with a capability profile of the inputted scanner node to perform scanning, and wherein the scan order is created in accordance with the reconciliation result, and wherein the scan order includes an identification of the inputted scan setting and the destination of at least one individual selected from a group comprising (A) recipients of the scanned image, and (B) recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, wherein the recipients of notification of completion of the scan order may comprise individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order; submitting the created scan order to at least one scanner node for processing through the computer network; displaying the identification of the inputted scan setting included in the scan order and processing the scan order at the scanner node by a user operation at the scanner node to select a scan order; wherein processing of the scan order at the scanner node involves: selecting one of the scan orders in the queue of the scanner node; parsing the selected scan order using a script interpreter module associated with the scanner node; sending commands to a scanner driver module associated with the scanner node based upon scanner settings and parameters obtained from the parsed scan order; updating the scanner node which processes the scan order on the computer network by

setting the scanner node to desired settings and parameters as specified in the scan order; placing the item to be scanned in the scanner node; initiating scanning to obtain the scanned item as specified in the scan order at the scanner node; sending a scanned image of the item as specified in the scan order using an email server module associated with the scanner node; and sending notification using the email server module associated with the scanner node of completion of the scan order to any parties indicated in the scan order” as stated in independent Claims 7 and 21.

Prior art *Collard* (US 6,813,037), *Roosen et al* (US 6,618,163), *Janse et al* (US 7,215,434) and *Myers et al* (US 6,917,437) teach using network peripherals such as printers and scanners to fulfill printer and scanner jobs received remotely over a network. However none of the prior art specifically discloses the claimed features of “each order entry server computer being coupled to said at least one computer terminal through the computer network; and at least one scanner node, each scanner node being coupled to said at least one computer terminal and each order entry server computer through the computer network, each scanner node being configured to select a scan order from a plurality of scan orders received from at least one of the order entry servers through the computer network by a user operation at the scanner node to select a scan order...wherein each scanner node comprises: a user interface module; a script interpreter module for parsing the scan order in order to obtain scanner settings and parameters contained therein, the script interpreter module coupled to the user interface module; a scan order queue updater and sorter module coupled to the user interface module and to the script interpreter module, the scan order queue updater and sorter module configured to update and sort a queue of a scanner node; a scanner driver module adapted to receive an output of the script interpreter module and to set settings and parameters of the scanner node based on the output; a scanner module coupled to the scanner driver module and adapted to receive scanner settings and parameters from the scanner driver module and configured to produce a scanned image; and an email server module coupled to the computer network, to the script interpreter module, and to the scanner module, the email server module configured to receive the scan order sent over the computer network, to send an electronic mail message containing the scanned image to any recipients indicated in the scan order...”.

Janse et al teach an operator at a scanner device that selects job types (*col.2 lines 34-41*) and sending a scan order to a user destination email address (*col.6 lines 51-61*), *Collard* teaches a

user at the scanner/printer is able to select a file for printing/scanning only during a command-controlled mode waiting time period (*col.7 line 66-col.8 line 59*), while *Myers et al* and *Roosen et al* teach that a operator is capable of stopping or suspending a current print job at the printer in order to process a higher priority job (*Myers et al: col.6 lines 1-8; Roosen et al: col.5 lines 27-44*); however these teachings do not fulfill the claimed feature that scan orders are selected for processing by a user operation done at the scanner node, which differs from the prior art in that no temporary command mode, circumstance or priority is needed for the user to operate the scanner node. The claimed invention entails that each scan order is selected by a user operation at the scanner node, wherein after selection of a scan order a script interpreter of the scanner node is used to parse the scan order for the appropriate settings and parameters for the scanner node; and after the scan order is completed, the scanned image is emailed to the user's destination and a notification of the completion is emailed.

These limitations, in conjunction with other limitations in the independent and dependent claims, are not specifically disclosed or remotely suggested in the prior art of record. A review of Claims 1-5, 7-14 and 17-22, in view of the Examiner's remarks above, indicates that Claims 1-5, 7-14 and 17-22 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

V. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KRISTIE D. SHINGLES whose telephone number is (571)272-3888. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday 9:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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